CHAPTER 2

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Chapter 2:
Environmental Review Overview

Chapter 2 discusses **the KEY environmental requirements** that CDBG recipients must comply with:

- to **assure protection of the environment**, and

- to consider **how environmental conditions could impact their CDBG projects.**

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969

Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) of 1971

FEDERAL Requirements

CDBG Manual: Pages 2-2 and 2-5 through 2-8

STATE Requirements

CDBG Manual: Page 2-3 and 2-8

EA - Environmental Assessment

EIS - Environmental Impact Statement

FONSI -Finding of No Significant Impact

ERR - Environmental Review Record

ROF - Release of Funds

RROF - Request for Release of Funds

NOI / RROF - Notice of Intent to Request

Release of Funds

These acronyms are used throughout Chapter 2 (see pages 2-8 and 2-9).

A. Receive authorization from MDOC/CDBG to incur start-up costs for "environmentally exempt" activities

B. Designate the Environmental Certifying Officer

C. Initiate historic preservation review

D. Undertake an Environmental Review (ER) and make one of five possible ER findings:

Level A, B, C, D, or E

Environmental <u>FINDING LEVEL A</u>

<u>All</u> project activities can be considered <u>exempt</u>.

CDBG Manual: Pages 2-11 through 2-13

Environmental __FINDING__ __LEVEL__ **B**

__All__ project activities can be "__categorically excluded__" **and** __no__ activities are affected by federal statutes or executive orders.

CDBG Manual: Pages 2-13 through 2-18

Categorically Excluded Activities: A general guide (page 2-13 through 2-15)

Activities that do NOT result in a major change in land use or activity at a site

>>> Prepare the Statutory Checklist <<< (Exhibit 2-C)

Environmental FINDING LEVEL C

All project activities can be "categorically excluded" and some activities are affected by federal statutes or executive orders

CDBG Manual: Pages 2-18 through 2-21

Environmental <u>FINDING LEVEL</u> D

- Preparation of an **Environmental Assessment** (EA)
and

- **Finding of <u>No</u> Significant Impact** (FONSI) is necessary.

CDBG Manual: Pages 2-21 through 2-25

PREPARATION OF AN **ENVIRONMENTAL SSESSMENT**

For activities that _will result_ in a _major change_ in land use or activity at a site -- but with _no significant adverse impacts_ at a site.

Sample Time-line for a "RROF"

March 15, 200__   Local publication of FONSI/NOI/RROF

March 16-30, 200__ Minimum 15-day local comment period

April 2, 200__ Grantee mails RROF to MDOC, allowing three days for mail delivery

April 5, 200__   MDOC receives RROF

April 6-20, 200__   MDOC 15-day comment period

April 21, 200__   MDOC release of funds

Environmental FINDING LEVEL E

Preparation of
an Environmental Assessment (EA)
and
a Finding of Significant Impact
is necessary

CDBG Manual: Pages 2-25 through 2-28

SPECIAL PROCEDURES: Floodplains and Wetlands

2-D Eight-Step Decision Making Process

2-E Documentation of Eight-Step Decision Making Process

2-F Early Public Notice for Floodplains and/or Wetlands

2-G Notice of Explanation for Floodplains and/or Wetlands

Historic Preservation Requirements

2-H Historic Preservation Review Process

2-I Notice to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Helpful Tools on the Web

NRIS

Natural Resource Information System

http://nris.state.mt.us

Features:

[Water Information](#)

[Geographic Information](#)

[Natural Heritage Program](#)

NRIS
Natural Resource Information System
http://nris.state.mt.us

Water Information

The Water Information System is the starting point for locating water resources information in Montana, such as data on surface water, groundwater, water quality, riparian areas, water rights, climate data and more.

- [Montana Water Organization Links](#)
- [Interactive Map and Data Tools](#)
- [Search Reference and Government Information](#)
- [Search GIS Data](#)

NRIS
Natural Resource Information System
http://nris.state.mt.us

Montana Geographic Information Clearinghouse

Welcome to the most comprehensive collection of geospatial data for Montana. NRIS contributes data to national efforts such as GeoSpatial One Stop and the National Map. We actively support GIS coordination in our state and work hard to provide value-added products and services to a diverse community of users. Resource List

Downloadable GIS Data

GIS Data List
Download statewide and regional layers and/or browse their metadata.
GIS Data Bundler
Choose multiple layers and have them clipped to a geographic area or buffer.
Web Services for GIS Applications
Request information or data from NRIS
Montana Maps
Downloadable statewide, county, watershed, or regional map images in GIF or PDF format.

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Natural Resource Information System
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The Montana Natural Heritage Program **is the state's source for information on the status and distribution of our native animals and plants, emphasizing species of concern and high quality habitats such as wetlands. We collect, validate, and distribute information, and assist natural resource managers and others in applying it effectively. Established by the Montana State Legislature in 1983, the program is located in the Montana State Library, where it is part of the Natural Resource Information System.**